

Hong Kong Trade and Development Symposium

Focus on Fair Trade

December 15, 2005

Hong Kong Exhibition Centre, 26 Harbour Road, Wan Chai

Rooms 401 and 403

- 09.00 Opening and Welcome Mark Ritchie, President IATP
- 09.15 Fair Trade – A Challenge to the WTO
Mary Robinson, Honorary President of Oxfam International; Ethical Globalisation Initiative, Ireland
- 9.30 Fair Trade and Fair Play in the WTO – An African Perspective
Love Mtesa, Ambassador to the UN and WTO and other International Organisations in Geneva, Zambia
- 09.45 Promoting Fair Trade - The Role of Bilateral Donors
Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul, Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany
- 10.00 Break
- 10.15 First parallel panels: A) Lessons from Fair Trade for Policy Making
 B) Mainstreaming Fair Trade: Opportunities and Challenges
- 12.45 Lunch Break
- 14.15 Second parallel panels: C) Fair Trade and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)
 D) Processing and Production Methods (PPMs) and Fair Trade: Legal Challenges and Opportunities to PPM Based Policy within the WTO
- 16.30 Break
- 16.45 Third parallel panels: E) Expanding Asian Domestic Markets: Creating Consumer Awareness
 F) Diversifying Products: Fair Trade in Tourism
- 19.00 End of third sessions
- 19.15 Panel: G) Fair Trade and Youth Movements
- 21.15 End of the last panel

Outline of panels

Title:	Lessons from Fair Trade for Policy Making		
Time: Dec 15 th , 10.15 – 12.45	Place:	Type: Panel	
Sponsor/ Organiser:	FLO, IFAT, NEWS, EFTA		
Moderator:	Anja Osterhaus, Fair Trade Advocacy Office, Bruxelles		
Speakers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meera Bhattarai, Association of Craft Producers, Nepal - Kamal Malhotra, UNDP - Wolfgang Sachs, Wuppertal Institute, Germany - Moctar Fall, Interface Trading, Senegal 		
Content:	<p>For more than forty years, the Fair Trade movement has demonstrated that trade can make a sustainable and significant contribution to improving the lives of producers and workers while protecting natural resources and the environment. But not all trade is fair and despite all commitments to make the Doha Round of trade talks a “development round” there are serious concerns that this will be another lost opportunity for small producers and poor people in developing countries. What lessons can be learnt from the Fair Trade experience? What is needed to make trade policy really work for development? How can we ensure that the needs of small producers and poor workers are being considered in trade policy making?</p>		

Title:	Mainstreaming Fair Trade: Opportunities and Challenges		
Time: Dec 15 th , 10.15 – 12.45	Place:	Type: Panel	
Sponsor/ Organiser:	Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (seco)		
Moderator:	Christine Loh, Civic Exchange, Hong Kong		
Speakers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safia Minney, People Tree Japan - Arun Raste, International Resources for Fairer Trade, India - Hans-Peter Egler, Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs - Representative from the private sector – TBC 		
Content:	<p>Between 2002 and 2003, fair trade labelled sales across the world grew by over 40% - which is impressive by any standards. However, despite these high numbers, fair trade remains a footnote in overall trade. Its future depends on scaling up and infiltrating the mainstream. There are an increasing number of fair trade products in supermarkets, and while this is a significant step, a number of questions remain: What are the implications for producers and workers of being positioned in mainstream fair trade value chains? Like any initiative fair trade is not a magic bullet and it faces a number of challenges going forward.</p>		

Title:	Fair Trade and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)		
Time: Dec 15 th , 14.15 – 16.30	Place:	Type: Panel	
Sponsor/ Organiser:	Hong Kong's People Council for Sustainable Development and The Hong Kong Council of Social Services		
Moderator:	Mark Ritchie, IATP and Albert Lai, Hong Kong's People Council for Sustainable Development		
Speakers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Michael Gidney, Traidcraft - Bernard Chan, Hong Kong Council of Social Service - Rut Carandell, Government of Catalonia - Dr Lok Sang Ho, Lingnan University, Hong Kong 		
Content:	<p>This session will put the two concepts of CSR and fair trade side by side. While CSR and Fair Trade share many principles, there are also fundamental differences between the two: CSR does not challenge the current trade system, whereas fair trade advocates for greater equity within the system. Based on its experiences of working with all stakeholders along the supply chain, fair trade provides good practice models for CSR. What can CSR learn from fair trade in order to move beyond the accusations of “corporate window-dressing”? What potential does the Global Compact have in this context?</p>		

Title:	Processing and Production Methods (PPMs) and Fair Trade: Legal Challenges and Opportunities to PPM Based Policy within the WTO		
Time: Dec 15 th , 14.15 – 16.30	Place:	Type: Panel	
Sponsor/ Organiser:	International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and Equiterre		
Moderator:	Mark Halle, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)		
Speakers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jason Potts, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) - Anja Osterhaus, Fair Trade Advocacy Office - Carlos Braga, World Bank - J George, Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS) 		
Content:	It is easier to distinguish products on the basis of what they are, than on the basis of their production methods. That is why especially process and production methods (PPM) which do not change the physical characteristics of a product – such as fair trade, but also other labour, environmental or animal welfare standards – are of particular concern. This panel will explore the state of WTO law with respect to PPM based policy with a view to identifying specific strategies for addressing and overcoming the legal and practical challenges facing Fair Trade and related “supply chain oriented” PPM-based policy.		

Title:	Expanding Asian Domestic markets: Creating Consumer Awareness		
Time: Dec 15 th , 16.45 – 19.00	Place:	Type: Panel	
Sponsor/ Organiser:	Consumers International and Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy		
Moderator:	Charles Bell, Consumers Union of the United States		
Speakers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indrani Thurisingham, Federation of Malaysian Consumers Associations - Phoenix Leung, Oxfam Hong Kong - Antoine Bouet, International Food Policy Research Institute 		
Content:	Reform and fundamental change of the WTO and its ways of operating are perhaps one of the key ways of making things happen for fair trade, but advocacy work at a national level is also instrumental in removing barriers to market access. This panel will explore the development of national fair trade initiatives designed to link producers directly to lucrative domestic markets and build consumer demand nationally for Fair Trade (and ecologically) certified products. What strategies have been effective in other countries? What are the current challenges and needs in order to make these initiatives more successful? What kinds of government and multilateral policies and support can facilitate domestic Fair Trade and marketing support for small producer groups?		

Title:	Diversifying Products: Fair Trade in Tourism		
Time: Dec 15 th , 16.45 – 19.00	Place:	Type: Panel	
Sponsor/ Organiser:			
Moderator:	Ranjan Solomon, Ecumenical Coalition on Tourism		
Speakers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Henryk Handszuh, World Tourism Organisation - Guyonne James, Tourism Concern - Jennifer Seif, Fair Trade in Tourism in South Africa 		
Content:	As of now there is no internationally recognised label for fair trade in tourism, however a growing number of organisations and operators address the emerging need for more authentic holidays which also benefit the environment and local people. The focus of fair trade in tourism must be people who lack the money or power to control tourism – indigenous communities, small businesses, local residents and tourism workers. How can the participation of the local population in financial and decision making terms be assured? What are experiences in this field made in South Africa? What are future perspectives for ethical practices in this industry?		

Title:	Fair Trade and Youth Movements		
Strategic objective:			
Time: Dec 15 th , 19.15 – 21.15	Place:	Type: Panel	
Sponsor/ Organiser:	Oxfam International Youth Parliament		
Moderator:	Sam Boyer, United Students for Fair Trade		
Speakers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pierre-Olivier L. Tremblay, Groupe HumaniTERRE, HEC Montréal - Fiona Au, Hong Kong University - Representative from other student and youth organisations from various countries – names TBC 		
Content:	<p>Students throughout university campuses have played a key role in promoting fair trade and giving it visibility in the United States. A similar movement is emerging in Australia and Fair Trade Universities are being established in the UK. While these initiatives are mostly limited to developed countries, young people in developing countries are also actively engaged in trade justice campaigning and advocacy. This panel will profit from the different stories that its speakers contribute from organisations they represent. Local actions will be linked to a network which aims to support young people in their engagement on the long term.</p>		

TBC = to be confirmed